

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

We claim:

1. A probe for a food thermometer comprising:
  - a probe housing having a distal end and a proximal end, the proximal end including an opening;
  - a temperature sensing element disposed in said probe housing proximate to the opening; and
  - a thermally conductive food safe coating covering the opening.
2. The probe of claim 1 wherein said coating includes at least one of a polytetrafluoroethylene and fluorinated ethylene propylene copolymer.
3. The probe of claim 1 wherein said coating is a thermoset powder coating.
4. The probe of claim 1 wherein the coating fills the opening.
5. The probe of claim 4 wherein the coating is substantially flush with a mouth of the opening.
6. The probe of claim 1 wherein said temperature sensing element protrudes through said opening and the coating covers the exposed portion of said temperature-sensing element.
7. The probe of claim 6 wherein the proximal end is tapered and the coating covers the tapered portion of the proximal end.
8. The probe of claim 1 wherein the coating is contiguous to the proximal surface of the temperature-sensing element.